

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for clearly displaying a comparison result of at least two data structures organized in respective directory trees on a graphic display unit, wherein each of the compared directory trees is formed in a similar hierarchical arrangement of files, folders or a combination of files and folders, the method comprising:

comparing the files or folders of each respective directory tree for which a comparison is desired with each other to evaluate structural or content differences between the compared files or folders; and

forming a single result directory tree in which the structural or content differences between the compared files or folders are displayed by predefined graphic markings.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

graphically displaying, in the single result directory tree, additional files or folders that are present in one of the compared directory trees as corresponding additional folders.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein, to show from which of the compared directory trees the additional folders come, the corresponding additional folders are provided with corresponding predefined markings.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein files or folders that have the same identity but differ with respect to their respective object attributes are graphically identified in the single result directory tree .

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein higher-level folders, which contain files or folders with a different identity or with different object attributes, are graphically marked in the single result directory tree.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ones of the files and folders, that are identically present with respect to their identity and object attributes in the compared directory trees, are shown in the single result directory tree without any of the predefined graphic markings.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein object attributes of the files or folders are displayed as a list in the single result directory tree in which the differences resulting from the comparison are graphically marked.

8. A data processing system for displaying a comparison result of at least two data structures organized in directory trees, the system comprising:

a memory unit operable to store the directory trees, wherein the directory trees are each formed in a similar hierarchical arrangement of files, folders or a combination of files and folders;

a microprocessor unit operable to compare and evaluate structural or content differences between the stored directory trees; and

a graphic display unit operable to display a graphically clear display of the comparison result, which comprises a single result directory tree in which the structural or content differences between the compared directory trees are displayed by predefined graphic markings.

9. A data processing system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the predefined graphic markings comprise at least one of various color markings and graphic symbols.

10. A data processing system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the graphic markings comprise at least one pictogram that indicates the differences between the directory trees and replaces an original respective at least one pictogram of the file or the folders of the compared directory trees.

11. A data processing system as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a print unit operable to print various information, wherein the differences in the compared directory trees are printed out in list form on said print unit or stored as a file in said memory unit.